

Letter to Senator Daniel Inouye
from Barbara Colby

*Example of several
thank-you
letters
to Congress*

re his support & that of his
staff (Daniel Finn, Rob Simmons
and The Committee's General
Counsel Victoria Toensing
Jul 30, 1982

30 July 1982

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
United States Senate, Select Committee on Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inouye:

For all CIA spouses, may we express our gratitude to you for your continued support of the amendment providing equitable sharing by qualifying spouses of Central Intelligence Agency officers in retirement and survivor benefits.

We know that our legislation has moved along so swiftly and so successfully because of your support for the concept and your leadership in its legislative processing. Your statements at the committee hearing, the mark-up session, and on the Senate floor provided the substantive basis for the successful vote. We appreciate your sympathetic understanding of the plight of women needing such aid. We have already met women who are looking forward to a secure future because of this legislation; there will be many others in the years ahead.

CIA, too, will benefit from this effort as the bright young couples the Agency aims at recruiting are attracted by this forward-looking personnel practice. Other officers will be retained as their spouses realize that their financial security is assured, diminishing pressure on them to seek employment on their own and thus to build a retirement of their own.

Also, we would like to express our gratitude for the continuing encouragement and very proficient support provided this project by your staff member, Daniel Finn. Mr. Finn has been a tireless and enthusiastic chairman of the Intelligence Committee staff's task force. His skillful and thorough preparation of our material for Congressional Record publication has expedited the processing and insured fair consideration of this proposal. He has displayed great empathy with the women this legislation will benefit.

The Committee's General Counsel, Victoria Toensing, has given generously of her legal and political expertise, as well as her time and warmly sympathetic support. With her backing, the CIA Task Force on Women's Concerns has already initiated projects that will be of lasting benefit, we believe, not only to CIA spouses but also to the Agency in retaining top-quality personnel.

Rob Simmons, Committee Chief of Staff, has continued to be helpful, supportive, and understanding. And we have benefitted from the encouragement, pleasant courtesy, and knowledgeable participation of Diane Branagan.

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Thank you very much, Senator Inouye, for making so much progress possible. We know that all CIA spouses--and many CIA officers who have expressed their support to us--are grateful for your actions on the behalf of these deserving women. We are certain that through your leadership, the legislative process will conclude with this amendment within the laws of this country.

We all are grateful.

Sincerely,

Barbara Colby

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(The third member of our informal committee, has gone overseas with her husband.)



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Return Address:

